

AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) An inflator processing apparatus comprising a processing furnace for processing the inflator, said apparatus being configured to process a gas generating chemical-containing inflator comprising a metal case for an automobile air bag by heating the inflator to a temperature not lower than an explosion temperature of the chemical and subsequently recovering the metal case of the inflator, wherein a metal partition wall composed of heat-resistant steel is provided, between the inflator and an inner surface of a ceramic wall of the processing furnace for processing the inflator, so as to cover the inner surface of the wall of the processing furnace and to prevent the inflator, when actuated by heating, from striking and damaging the inner surface of the ceramic wall of the processing furnace, said inflator processing apparatus further comprising a module for charging the apparatus with inflators, in which module a timing of charge of the inflator is judged by comparing a total number of charged inflators located in the apparatus with an observed number of peak points of furnace pressure due to explosion of the chemical in the charged inflators located in the apparatus.

2. (previously presented) The inflator processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an incinerator provided with a burner and an air supplier for

dilution or/and an exhaust gas circulator is/are contiguous to and functionally connected with the processing furnace.

3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) A method for determining the timing of charge of inflators into an inflator processing apparatus configured to process a gas generating chemical-containing inflator for an automobile air bag by heating the inflator to a temperature not lower than an explosion temperature of the chemical and subsequently recovering the metal case of the inflator, wherein a metal partition wall composed of heat-resistant steel is provided, between the inflator and the inner surface of a ceramic wall of the processing furnace for processing the inflator, so as to cover the inner surface of the wall of the processing furnace and to prevent the inflator actuated by heating from striking and damaging the inner surface of the ceramic wall of the processing furnace, which method comprises the step of comparing a total number of charged inflators located in the apparatus with an observed number of peak points of furnace pressure due to explosion of the chemical in the charged inflators located in the apparatus.